Military Hospitals and have not availed similar assistance from other sources.

(iii) Ex-Servicemen can avail of Canteen facilities from the nearest CSD canteens.

(iv) Children of Defence Personnel killed or permanently disabled in action who are studying in institutions under the Department of Education, are granted complete exemption from tuition fee and other fee levied by the institution.

(v) Reservation of 25 seats in MBBS and one seat in BDS have been made for the wards of ex-Servicemen killed or disabled in action or during peace time due to attributable causes.

(vi) Two seats in each of the six IITs are reserved for children of the Defence/Para Military Forces personnel Killed or permanently disabled in action.

(vii) Twenty five percent seats are reserved for wards of serving and retired Armed Forces personnel in Sainik Schools.

(viii) 50% concession is provided in air fare for travel in domestic flight of Indian Airlines to recipients of gallantry awards of Param Vir Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Ashok Çhakra & Kırti Chakra: permanently disabled officers and dependent members of their familise; and to the war widows of post Independent era.

(ix) 75% concession in rail fare for travel in II class is available to war widows.

(x) 35 War memorial hostels have been constructed to provide accommodation to wards of war bereaved and disabled personnel to enable them to pursue their studies. Kendriya Sainik Board also provides education grant to the children staying in these hostels. There are 4 War Memorial Hostels located in Bihar.

(xi) Kendriya Sainik Board and Rajya/Zila Sainik Boards provide financial assistance from Welfare Funds to old and infirm ex-Servicemen and their widows in indigent circumstances. Financial assistance is also provided to needy ex-Servicemen for medical treatment, daughter's marriage, repairs of house etc.

(xii) 238 Sainik Bhawans/Rest Houses spread all over the country have been established for ex-Servicemen. There are 8 Sainik Rest Houses in Bihar.

2. In addition, State Government of Bihar is also providing a number of facilities/concessions to ex-Servicemen.

3. Year-wise amount spent on welfare and rehabilitation schemes for ex-Servicemen and dependents of the deceased soldiers in the State of Bihar including tribal area and plateau region, and the number of beneficiaries during last three years were as under :-

Year	No.of Beneficiaries	Amount Spent
1993	4336	Rs. 26,50,851/-
1994	4466	Rs. 37,44,207/-
1995	2896	Rs. 25,57,472/-

Agreement Signed with Canada

2817. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five agreements were signed with Canada recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including areas covered, salient features, cost involved and quantum of foreign exchange in case of each agreement?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) One Agreement and four MOUs were signed with Canada during the visit of the Canadian Prime Minister to India in January, 1996.

(b) (i) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Finance and the Canadian Department of National Revenue for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital.

(ii) MOU on cooperation in Telecommunications was signed between the Ministry of Communications and the Canadian Department of Industry to promote the expansion and modernisation of India's telecommunication services through cooperation for voice, data and video services in urban and rural areas, introduction of new transmission, switching and network management facilities, etc.

(iii) MOU in the field of Highway Transportation was signed by the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Government of Ontario, Canada for cooperation in the expressway development programme in India. The areas of cooperation include packaging of privatisation projects, evolving bid documents for privately financed projects, management of privately financed projects, development of technical and operational standards, assessment of hardware and software requirements for operation and development of a highway management system, exploring possibility of bilateral

aid for funding feasibility studies for expressway projects, providing training facilities for personnel in relevant areas.

(iv) 2 MOUs for cooperation in Heavy Oil was signed by ONGC and Oil India Ltd. and the Alberata Research Council for increasing the energy self sufficiency in India through an accelerated and orderly approach to the development of India's non-conventional hydrocarbon reserves including heavy oil.

[Translation]

Assistance to Sri Lanka

2818. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in which India and Sri Lanka are collaborating at present;

(b) the areas in which they propose to collaborate in near future; and

(c) the annual assistance provided by India to Sri Lanka during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) (a) and (b). Relations between India and Sri Lanka are close and cordial, marked by wide-ranging cooperation in various fields. The areas of collaboration include Industry, Trade, Science & Technology, Civil Aviation, Education, Dairy Development, Training & Human Resource Development etc. In the field of Dairy Development. a joint venture between NDDB and MILCO (a Sri Lankan Govt. Agency) is expected to be functional in the near future. In addition, a large number of joint ventures involving Indian companies have been set up in Sri Lanka. The economic reforms within India coupled with the incentives offered by the Sri Lankan Government continue to present a sound base to the Indian companies. The notable trend in joint ventures is diversification from the traditional segments of textile and transport into new areas such as chemicals, hotels, food and beverages, construction, drugs and Pharmaceuticals, automobile tyres, steel, sugar and medical care. A credit line of US$ 30 million was made available to the Sri Lankan Government in Jan'96 for import of goods and services from India.

A meeting of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission is scheduled to take place in Colombo later this year. This would be preceeded by meetings of sub-Commissions on Trade, Finance and Investment, Science & Technology and Social, Cultural and Educational Affairs. These meetings would review progress made in existing areas of cooperation and also identify new areas of meaningful cooperation.

(c) Assistance provided to Sri Lanka through the "Aid to Sri Lanka" Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs was to the tune of Rs.4.4176 crores in 1993-94; Rs. 4.8381 crores in 1994-95 and Rs. 6.1792 crores in 1995-96.

Indian Institute of Technology in Bihar

2819. SHRI LAL BABU PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more units of Indian Institute of Technology in Bihar.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. Owing to financial constraints. the Government, at present, does not propose to set up any more Indian Institutes of Technology in the country.

Indian Students in Ruseia

2820. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the "Indian Express" dated March 24, 1996 to the effect that Indian students studying in Russia and other erstwhile Soviet Republics are engaged in smuggling and other such activities in guise of courier service to meet their expenses;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard: and

(c) the steps taken so far and the steps proposed to be taken to alleviate the difficulties being faced by such Indian students?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware of some cases of Indian students studying in Russia having indulged in illegal activities. While illegal activities cannot be condoned, Government are conginzant of the difficulties being faced by Indian students owing to reduction or elimination of stipends and increase in the cost of living.

(c) Government have taken steps to alleviate these difficulties to the extent possible. In recent years, There has been considerable liberalisation in the foreign exchange conversion facilities available for students going for higher studies abroad.

In November 1994, Government entered into an agreement with the Russian State Committee for Higher Education providing for placement of Indian students in recognised institutions of higher education in Russia, as well as guaranteed terms and conditions for the entire duration of their study, against payment in hard currency.